

1866-002 Chancery Causes: Thomas S. Ely & wife vs. Susan P. Willis, &c  
Lee Co. widow

Esther~, Mary~, Thomas~, Reuben~, Sarah~, Betsy~, Anderson~,  
Margaret~, Cynthia~

CA - Estate Dispute

T - Property  
Slavery



To the worshipful County Court of Lee County  
The bill of Complaint of Thomas S. C. and  
Susan M. his wife respectfully <sup>represents</sup> ~~represents~~, that  
John S. Millis late of This County died on the day  
of 185<sup>th</sup> intestate, at the time of his  
death he owned both real and personal estate  
of very considerable value and was but little  
indebted. The deceased left a widow named  
Susan who with David C. Millis administered  
on the estate of deceased. After the payment  
of the debts due by deceased there remained of  
of the personal estate and proceeds arising  
therefrom a considerable amount. Besides  
the following negroes viz. Esther, Mary, Thomas  
Reuben, Sarah, Patsy, Anderson, Margaret & Cynthia

which according to the laws of this State have  
descended to the said Susan M. wife of John S. C.  
John C. Millis David C. Millis, Jeremiah S. Millis  
Alexander Millis and James Millis the heirs at  
law and distributees of John S. C. Millis dec'd. Subject  
to the said widow's dower interest which interest  
has not yet been assigned her, John S. C. and  
brother being desirous that the widow's dower  
be assigned her in said slaves and distribution  
made of the remainder among the children and  
heirs of the intestate according to the statute  
of distribution, pray that the said David C.  
Millis John C. Millis Jeremiah S. Millis Alexander  
S. Millis and James Millis the children and heirs  
at law with John S. C. of John S. C. Millis  
dec'd Susan M. the widow and David C. Millis  
& Susan M. Millis the administrators or adm



incidental be made parties defendants to this  
bill and answer the same truly upon oath.  
- That upon a hearing of the cause Commissioners  
be appointed director to assign the said widow  
her dower interest in said slaves and dis-  
tribute the rest in kind which her letter  
& others think will be practicable among  
those entitled according to the statute  
of distributions, that a guardian ad litem  
be appointed for the said Alexander and  
James who are infants under the age  
of 21 years, And that all things be done  
by your worship which ought to be  
done and nothing more, so that perfect  
justice and equality be effected  
and general relief, May it please  
your worship to direct summon  
to appear &c.

Hay and Richmond



11-12  
1861-1862

1861-1862

Deer & Decree

1861-1862

1861-1862

1861-1862

1861-1862

1861-1862

1861-1862  
April Term Final Decree  
and Cause Strickland vs. Docket

£ 4.61

£ 5.00

£ 1.00

£ 5.00

£ 4.00

£ 19.61

Charged to Jan 1861 - 240



To the Worshipful County Court of Lee  
County in Chancery sitting:

The answer of Alexander Willis and James  
Willis infant heirs of John S. Willis deceased by  
David Miller their Guardian ad litem to  
the Bill of Complaint filed in this worshipping  
Court by Thomas S. Ely and Susan M. his wife  
against these defendants and others:

These defendants by David Miller their Guar-  
dian ad litem for answer to said Bill say  
that they are infants under the age of twenty  
one years and are not capable of judging as  
to their rights in the Bill mentioned and con-  
sequently neither admit nor deny the Complain-  
ant's allegations and reserve to themselves the  
benefits of the usual exceptions to Complainant's  
Bill now and at all times hereafter and ask  
that the Compls. be required to proceed in  
the Cause as equity requires and ask the pro-  
tection of the Court in any and every  
thing that affects their rights in the premises  
And having answered they pray to be dis-  
missed with their Costs.

David Miller

Guardian ad litem

Virginia Lee County to wit:

This day David Miller (guardian ad litem  
for Alexander Willis and James Willis infant heirs of  
John S. Willis deceased) personally appeared before  
the undersigned a justice of said County and made  
oath that the above answer is true to the best  
of his knowledge and belief. Given under my  
hand this the 5th day of Dec. 1860. Thos Baylor J.P.



David C. Willis & others  
ads, Answer of  
Guardians  
ad litem.  
Thos. J. Ely & wife

Question at issue before this Court - 1857



Thomas S. El & wife

against

Susan P. Willis & others

In chy

This Cause came on again This day to be heard upon the papers formerly read in the Cause, the report of P. M. Bales Alexander Lehadwell & Joshua Ewing Commissioners appointed by a decree in this cause and was argued by Counsel. And it appearing that said report has been returned to and filed in this Court more than 30 days and no exceptions have been filed thereto the same is therefore confirmed. And it appearing to the Court from said report that the said Commissioners assigned to Susan P. Willis the widow the following Slaves to wit Esther Thomas & Morgan. At for her dower interest in the slaves in the bill mentioned. She the said widow consenting to pay to the heirs of Mrs. Willis dec'd. \$83.34 This being the excess of the value of the slaves assigned her beyond her dower interest. That said Commissioners allotted to David C. Willis as his distributive share the negro Slave Mary valued at \$800.00. He the said David consenting to pay to certain others of the heirs of decedent \$241.67 This being the excess of the value of the slave Mary beyond his distributive share. That said Commissioners allotted to J. C. Willis the negro Slave Sarah valued at \$500.00. He having received notes of others of the heirs amounting to \$72.22. This sum making up his distributive share. That said Commissioners allotted to J. Skilton Willis the slave Anderson valued at \$350.00. He



having received from certain of the other heirs  
notes amounting to \$222.22. This sum making  
up his distributive share that said Comrs allotted  
to Thos. S. El & wife. the negro slave Reuben  
valued at \$600.00 they having ~~received~~ <sup>paid</sup> of  
note to the heirs \$41.67 This being the  
excess of their distributive share that Comrs  
allotted to Alexand Willis the slave Betty of  
valued at \$500.00 he having received of  
the other heirs \$72.22. This sum making  
up his distributive share that Comrs allotted  
to James Willis the negro slave Cynthia  
valued at \$600.00. he consenting to pay to the  
other heirs \$27.78 This being the excess of  
his distributive share. It is ordered decreed  
and adjudged that the said Susan P. retain  
for her dower interest the slaves assigned to  
her as aforesaid. And that each of the other  
heirs of John S. Willis &c. hold the absolute  
property in the slave allotted to each as before  
stated, by said Commissioners. And it is  
ordered that complainant and the adult  
defendants pay the costs of this suit.

And the cause is stricken from the  
docket.



Thos S. E. & wife

vs. } final decree

Susan P. Willis & others



Virginia.

At a court begun and held for Lee County at the Court house thereof on Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> day of December 1860.

Thomas P. Ely & wife Complainants

against

In Chancery.

Susan P. Willis and others Defendants.

Upon motion of complainants, this cause was ordered to be placed on the issue Docket and the same, came on to be heard this day on the bill of Complainants, the answer of Alexander Willis, and James Willis, by David Miller their guardian ad litem, and was argued by counsel; and it appearing to the Court that process was duly served, upon the other Defendants, and they failing to appear and answer the bill, is therefore taken for confessed as to them;

Upon consideration whereof, it is ordered adjudged and decreed, that Robert M. Hales, Alexander H. Chadwell Sr and Joshua Ewing, be and they are hereby appointed commissioners, for the purpose, and they are directed, to assign and lay off to Defendant Susan P. Willis, widow of John P. Willis deceased her dower interest, which is one third of the Slaves, in the bill mentioned and the remainder of said Slaves. The said Commissioners, are directed to distribute equally among the children and heirs of the said Willis deceased mentioned in the bill, and report to the next term of this Court, until which time the cause is continued.

A copy.

Teste.

William F. Paul, Clk.



Thos. P. Ely. v. ab

vs  $\frac{3}{3}$  Copy Decree

Guan. D. Willis v. ab

Ex. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1.

Ex. 2. 1. 1. 1. 1.

Ex. 3. 1. 1. 1. 1.

4. 1. 1. 1. 1.



in the City of New York

James H. Hedges & others

vs  
The Trustees of the City of New York

A motion of complaint this case is  
now on file on the case docketed  
The same came on to be heard this day  
and the following complaints The union  
of Alexander Mills and James Mills by  
David Miller their guardian all before  
and was argued by counsel, and it  
appearing to the Court that process was  
only served upon the other defendants  
and that they failing to appear and answer  
the bill is therefore taken for confessed  
and that the same be considered as such  
It is ordered accordingly that it be and that  
Robert W. Baker & Alexander M. Chadwell Esqrs Joshua Ewing  
be and they are hereby appointed commis-  
sioners for the purpose and they are  
directed to assign and lay off to dependent  
James H. Mills widow of James H. Mills and  
her daughter interest which is one-third of  
the slaves in the bill mentioned and  
the remainder of said slaves the said  
commissioners are directed to distribute  
equally among the children and heirs  
of the said Mills as mentioned in  
the bill and until the next term  
of this Court until which time the  
case is continued



in the morning

1. 1000

2.

2. on the hills &c

Entered - Dec 1860



In a S. Will. & Co.

Report of Comm.

Susan S. Willis & Co.

1861, Jan 22, & his report

filed  
At L. Morgan, & Co.



Pursuant to a decree of The County Court of Lee County at the December Term <sup>1860</sup> the undersigned being appointed commissioners to divide The Slaves of the The estate of John S. Willis decd. between The Widow and heirs at law of said decd. they leave to report that we valued the nine Slaves to be divided at Fifty one Hundred and Fifty Dollars — \$5150.00

The Widows dower being seventeen Hundred, sixteen dollars and sixty six cents \$1716.66  
She Recd Esther at 800.00

" " Thomas " 800.00

" " Margaret " 200.00 1800.00

Leaving a balance to pay over to 6 heirs \$83.34 \$583.34

David C. Willis's distributive share is \$572.22

Recd Mary at — ~~800.00~~ 800.00

By his note to Shelton Willis 208 33

" " " " J. C. Willis 33 34 241.67

amt from Mother — ~~13.89~~ 558.33  
13.89 \$572.22

J. C. Willis

Recd. Sarah at 500.00

" D. C. Willis's note 33. 34

" Thos. Eliza's note 24. 99

" amt from Mother 13. 89 \$572.22

Shelton Willis

Recd. Andrew at 350.00

" D. C. Willis's note 208 33

" from Mother 13 89 \$572.22

\$3433.32



amt brot over

3433,32

Thomas Ely & wife

Recd. Beulen at

\$600,00

By his note to J. C. Willis 24.99

" " " " Alex Willis 16.68

41.67

To amt from Widow

558.33

1389

\$572.22

Alexander Willis

Recd Betsey at

\$500,00

To James note

41.67

" Thos Ely "

16.68

" amt of Mother

1389

\$572,24

James Willis

Recd Cynthia at

\$600-00

By note to James Willis

41.67

To amt from Mother

558.33

1389

\$572,22

\$5150,00

All of which is respectfully submitted  
Given under our hands this 29th day of  
December 1860

R. M. Bates  
Alexander H. Chadwell  
Joshua Ewing



The Commonwealth of Virginia,

TO THE SHERIFF OF LEE COUNTY—GREETING:

WE COMMAND YOU TO SUMMON *David C. Willis, John C. Willis, Jeremiah S. Willis, Alexander Willis, and James Willis, heirs at law and distributees of John C. Willis Decd., Susan S. Willis, Widow of said John C. Willis and David C., and Susan S. Willis administrators and administratrixes of the said John C. Willis, Deceased* -

to appear before the Justices of our County Court for Lee county, at the Court House, *on the first Monday in October 1860.* \_\_\_\_\_ to answer

a bill in Chancery exhibited in our said Court against *them* by *Thomas S. Ely, and Susan M. his wife, formerly Susan Willis* ✓

And have then there this writ. WITNESS, HENRY J. MORGAN, Clerk of our said Court, at the Court House, this *6<sup>th</sup>* day of *September* 1860, in the *85<sup>th</sup>* year of the Commonwealth.

*H. J. Morgan Clerk* -  
" " "



(H. & R)

Thomas S. Ely & wife

vs { Ely in Chancery  
3

David C. Willis & others

Octo. Rules - 1860

September 12<sup>th</sup> 1860

Executed

J. P. Brown, D.S.

for A. B. Russell